

The Wichita Eagle.

WICHITA, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1872.
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T. S. P. H. DEPT.

EMPIRIA AS A COMPETITOR.

Those who are in the habit of noting the rapid development of this state, and who possess the ability to interpret the signs of the times will coincide with the conclusion expressed in the head of this article. There is most at least acknowledgment that there is good reason for the prophecy. We write this out of no ill feeling towards Topeka. Our only desire is to call the attention of the people of southwestern Kansas to the fact that their representatives and senators may give the matter careful consideration before voting any further appropriations toward completing the capitol building already commenced.

As all know, who know aught of the geography of Kansas, Topeka is east of the center of the northeast quarter of the state. Cut the map of the state into eight equal squares as nearly as may be, and Topeka will be found to be located near the center of the northeast eighth.

We care not what may be said by those living east and north of Topeka about the barrenness of the western part of the state, or want of population. Our assumption of the future removal of the capital of our commonwealth is based on a proposition that lops off one hundred and fifty miles of the western end of the state or to a point as far east as Ft. Lawrence, as uninhabitable. But is it? With all that cut off the center would not be far from Council Grove, in Morris county.

The southeast quarter of this state will, in another year or two, if it is not already, be as densely populated as the northeast fourth, while the southwest quarter will have in ten years a population equal to either, and far in excess of that of the northwest quarter. We conceive this statement to be true and one that will be conceded to be a fact by all before long. Upon it we base the prophecy that Emporia will stand a good chance to become the future permanent capital of Kansas. Junction City is not geographically much too far north, but as to population she probably will be. Salina is nearer right geographically, but too far west for the future center of population.

Emporia, will be, within five years, the nearest center of population of any considerable town, while Topeka is about as accessible to the great bulk of population of Kansas as is Topeka. With the completion of the Carbonate road from Lawrence; the Holden road, west from Paola, and the Solomon or Republican valley roads north from Junction City, Emporia will be the most accessible of any point in the state. Now, all southeastern and southwestern Kansas has direct connection with her, as has also all the larger cities of the state, together with the Kansas valley west of Junction City.

Kansas has four grand distinctive valleys in the State, the first of which in importance is the Kaw; the second, the Arkansas; the third, the Neosho, and fourth, the Republican. The three first of these valleys are already connected by rail with Emporia, and the last is virtually so at Junction City. Take your map and satisfy yourselves upon these propositions.

We care nothing for what may be said about the expense consequent upon such a removal. The people pay the tax and the people do the voting. To a wealthy state like this will be in a few years, the extra tax to a great majority of the voters would be but a few cents, and would not have the least influence, providing two or three millions of money is not expended on the present building before the question is tested. Topeka was far west of the center of population ten years ago. Now she is far north of it; soon she will be far east and north of such center.

The present building was brought some sixty miles to its present site, the material being carted across the river. It surely could be taken sixty miles further.

But we did not start out to discuss the proposition, only to say that we had been thinking the matter over, and to get others as much interested as ourselves to thinking also. Topeka may hoot the idea and the eastern Kaw valley laugh, but the Kaw valley is laughing because northern Kansas, and the first time that an appropriation of two or four hundred thousands is asked for building another wing of the capitol, this question will be seriously discussed, and the next thing the people will demand a vote upon it.

A remarkable fatality has fallen upon the evergreens over a great part of the country during the past winter or spring. The young evergreens of various kinds have been killed to a fearful extent, either by severe frost or sudden thawing after the frost. The cause is still a matter of speculation, but the fact is one which is witnessed to a fearful extent. Some nurserymen have lost to the value of from ten to fifty thousand dollars worth, and others have suffered the loss of hedges and ornamental trees and shrubs.

The old State Record is to be revived again as a morning daily after the Philadelphia convention has announced its nominees. We are glad of this and can assure its revivifiers that at this particular time and in this peculiar locality, they can swell in no inconsiderable measure their "sub" list.

Dispatches from London under date of the 27th inst., announce the death of Sir Henry Leighton Bulwer, aged 68 years. It is noticeable that 1872 thus far is so promising to be as prolific with deaths of eminent persons as last year.

On Monday last ground was broken at Topeka for the Topeka & Lawrence railroad. A grand pow-wow was held at the A. T. & S. P. H. depot. A procession of head-dights moved amid fiddling, beating of drums and all that sort of thing.

EDITORIAL EXCURSION.

The editorial excursionists overwhelmed us with brains, tobacco and a slight sprinkling, on their visit from Emporia here on Wednesday last. Our citizens rolled over movable things depotwards, including a few barrels. To take them around was the climbing effort of our citizens, and they were took. A fine band of music accompanied the tripodists and they were received amid the acclamations of our citizens. Editors are always welcome, and if they ain't they always recover themselves so that a casual reader would think they were.

A superb dinner was provided them at the Empire House, and amid feasting, toasting and hilarity many a double-right-angle-triangular meal went sousing into a grateful stomach long unused to epicurean diet. At four o'clock the excursionists took their departure. All regretted that they could not stay over and take a fish, many of them exhibited such strong piscatorial tendencies. The benefit that will accrue to Wichita from this visit of the editorial fraternity of our state will be almost incalculable. All of them, including the ladies, expressed themselves as delighted with our valley and surprised at the magnitude of our city. Many regretted that this place was not selected as the place for the convention, expressing their preference to Wichita over Emporia, "because," exclaimed several at once, "your people seem to be all alive."

We congratulate the editors on their selection of wives and sisters; both were the best we ever saw. The men were good looking and intelligent, and the women vivacious and pretty. We could obtain only a few names which we dare not publish for fear of showing partiality.

TWO WEEKS.

For such a matter as two weeks we are, by authority of letter from March Murdoch, to attend all business matters, and to assume the editorial conduct of the WICHITA CITY EAGLE. In obedience thereto, even now we are swinging our delicately perfumed pedals between the floor and the posterior receptacle of the high editorial chair of the above named, and gazing longingly out into the blue hyperion trying to think about something we've been thinking about; but alas! too few. However, we are persuaded that people who are offended are easily made mad, and when they reach these stages are apt to be hasty and get hot. We would, therefore, state very frankly to all such that if anything of a singular, provoking nature, appears in these columns during Mr. Murdoch's absence, keep cool, he will only be gone two weeks. Bullly two weeks! We had a notion to insert the names of H. G. and G. B.; to nail them on our forebotten poop, but it's too nautical, besides we are afraid the next insertion would be in the region of one of the above named nauticals. The local admonition on "big head" "am busted"; those who have been familiar with us will be known by us no more for two weeks.

M. M. Murdoch, by dispatch from T. J. Peter made Brig. Gen. of the excursionists, came with them Wednesday and flew off again and will continue to fly around excursioning a week or two, when things in the office will assume their proper level again. In the meantime Mr. Fred. A. Sowers will have charge of the editorial and business management of the big bird.

WEST WICHITA.

EDITOR EAGLE: We are having quite lively times in our burg across the raging "Rackensack," and a few lines from your occasional may not come amiss in your paper.

Long continued rise in the river has given an impetus to trade this side which causes us to think a well established business here will pay. Our single grocery store has not been able to supply the demand for supplies, and any one wishing a good business location cannot do better than to call at West Wichita. Mr. Alex. our wagon-maker and blacksmith, has been crowded with business for some time past, and as he does all work in a business-like manner, is sure to build up a thriving business.

We notice the town site has been surveyed more completely of late, preparatory to a vigorous growth the present season. Lots are given away to any one who will improve by building, and the company are holding out good inducements to all such.

We miss the social and cheerful merchant, Mr. J. S. Hughes, from our streets, who has left to try his fortune elsewhere. Mr. H. is one of the first residents here and has established a good trade. His son-in-law, D. McCasas, carries on the business at the old stand.

Wichita may boast her fine scenery, but we are favored with splendid music on this side also, which cannot be surpassed by many of the larger cities. A favorite tune seems to be, "Will you walk into my parlor said the spider to the fly."

The recent heavy rains have been very favorable for hedge, and all kinds of fruit and shade trees, which are looking well. Corn and other crops are also looking finely. This causes all to feel encouraged, and all are sure that the valley is a success as a farming country.

A new dwelling belonging to Dyer Smith, in the southwest part of the city, was struck by lightning during the storm on Sunday afternoon. The house was just completed and was not yet occupied. The lightning struck the chimney, sending it in two in the handiwork style, smashed a few rafters, knocking a portion of the plastering off nearly every room in the house and then passed into the ground, as if fully satisfied with the damage it had accomplished. —Fort Scott Monitor.

A Wilson county jury has just taxed a young man \$1,500 for failing to comply with his promise to marry a young woman, whom he had betrayed. Although we live on the "border," yet thanks to the good influences of our earlier associations, we have not forgotten how sacred the marriage relation is. We honor that jury. A motion is on file for a new trial. —Pioneer Journal.

NOTICE TO SETTLERS ON OSAGE LANDS.

FROM OXFORD.

OXFORD, May 22, 1872.
Hear him but reason in divinity
And all-admiring, with an inward wish
You would desire the king were made a freeman.
—King Henry V.

MR. EAGLE: The press of our country is a wonderful educator, "and you are another." Would you believe it, since our lyre was lastly tuned, to earthly symphonies, one of our distinguished professionals, whose title we thence decried, has donned a bran-new beard, revolutionized his toilet generally, and is now as trim and well-favored a limb of the law as you need to look upon. Indeed, the effect has been so wonderful that we learn he is even contemplating retiring from the legal ranks and entering the clerical profession. May his proselytizing "the Jews," in number and kind. We very much need a reinforcement of clergy here, as we have no resident regular minister. The Baptist people have taken steps to organize and build a church, but have no pastor. The Presbyterians are in the same condition, except that Rev. Mr. Boggs, who resides and farms in the vicinity, preaches occasionally. The Methodist conference sent a minister to serve a society here and at Belle Plaine, but having a farm and other engagements some twenty miles away we have seen him but once this year at his regular appointments. So, with the exception of transient visitors and local ministrations, which being gratuitous and unprized, the people are as sheep without a shepherd. We hope soon to see a good, live man come among us with the true apostolic spirit, leaving farming, etc., to us wordlings, and giving himself wholly to the ministry. Such a man would be well sustained, appreciated and successful. Any other is of little use. Still we have a most orderly, Sabbath-keeping, quiet and moral community. Sunday school, church services, lectures, day school and other beneficent means are regularly and well sustained, and very few new places can boast of so many good citizens or so few excrecences. We have but one run-hole distinctively, and hope and pray for its removal soon. It is slowly doing its damnable and deadly work. Here and there already it has poisoned the life-blood of otherwise good citizens, husbands and fathers, and every day we are saddened to see the bloodshot eye, the flushed and inflamed cheek—the lineaments of the beast being developed—and mark the inevitable tokens that ere long their wives and children will bend with anguish over the bloated, beady remains of a loved husband or father who has gone to a drunkard's grave and a drunkard's hell. Who can deny that the man—no, the creature—who can wantonly desolate homes and ruin hopes, for a little paltry gain, is an enemy to his race, dangerous to society, and ought to have meted out to him the extreme rigors of the law? Yet there are men, even christian in name, who will apologize for such fends incarnate, and even sign their petitions for license and join in taboos or excommunicating those who would make an effort to rid the country of such curses. Our legislators have made excellent laws to punish these rascals and stop their death-dealing carnival, and it only remains for good men to combine and stand firmly together, refusing all licenses and prosecuting every case, to shut up effectually these vile sales and malstroms of hell. Aside from the mean, dirty, loathsome whiskey trade, of which we have less than almost any town in the state (but just one too many), we have a most enterprising and thrifty class of tradesmen, all in legitimate, honorable business, all with rooms to encourage habits of prodigality and indolence; no dens of infamy—vestibules of position—no allure the foolish and unwary to sure and certain ruin, and no gambling hell to swallow up the results of the toil and economy of our young men, we are laying the foundations—slow and sure—of a flourishing and prosperous town. One drug store, two dry goods, two hardware and tin, five grocery and provision, jeweler, dentist, millinery, two blacksmith and wagon, steam saw and grist mill, brick yard, cabinet shop, several cabinet shops, surveyors, land agents, lumber dealers, agricultural implements, and other men of business. We are well prepared for work, and all are at it and have plenty to do. A new bank is soon to open, and a new drug store. We have a model bakery, confectionery and refreshment house, a first-class boarding house, and one of the best equipped and most commodious hotels in the Southwest just being opened—and a man that don't like the pleasant faces and fare of mine host and his accomplished lady is no judge of ginger.

Then, Mr. Editor, we have just what your genial nature would like—good, neighborly, home-made sociables. Once in awhile some of our youngsters, whose better-life education has been slightly neglected, are tempted to bring out the devil's spotted, unbought temptations, but they have breeding and refinement enough to keep them in the background and put them aside when any of the clergy come in. It will be a good time when there is such a high christian civilization in our new country as will effectually banish this relic of barbarism and substitute a culture and a thirst for something more elevating and ennobling than tempting, time-consuming, senseless pastebored.

But before closing these quicknotes notes we must remember our bright and happy little ones. Under the training of friend Bailey it would do you good to hear them sing in a way to delight even Mozart himself. The man who learns children to sing, and who helps to cultivate a musical taste in any community is a real benefactor, and though he may not find it the most lucrative employment, yet he can have the satisfaction of feeling that he is contributing very largely to the moral forces that are lifting up and blessing humanity. The child or man that learns to sing good "songs of joyous praise" is not near so likely to soil his lips with profanity or his soul with guilt. God bless the teachers and learners of the heavenly and divine science and art of music praise.

MOZART.

NOTICE TO SETTLERS ON OSAGE LANDS.

FROM OXFORD.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20, 1872.
Register and Reporter, Wichita, Kansas.
GENTLEMEN: I enclose herewith a copy of an act for the relief of settlers on the Osage lands in the state of Kansas, approved on the 9th inst.

The first section provides for the disposal of the Osage trust and diminished reserve lands—excepting the 16th and 36th sections—to the amount of 160 acres or one quarter section to each actual bona-fide settler, qualified to enter government lands, for cash only, at \$1.25 per acre, in compact form as required by the pre-emption laws. This modifies the "square farm" requirement of the act of 15th July, 1870.

Under the second section, any actual settler on these lands who failed to pay for his claim in the time allowed by the act of July 15th, 1870, is allowed three months from May 9th, 1872, in which to place his declaratory filing in the local office, if not already done, and until the 1st day of January, 1873, in which to prove up and pay for the tract so filed for, with this proviso, that such settler be required to pay interest on the amount due from him at the rate of five per cent. per annum, from the time such payment should have been made up to the time of actual payment.

You will therefore compute and charge the proper interest in such case in permitting entries of this class. The third and last section of the act, allows the party who may have sold a claim on these lands prior to April 26, 1871, the right of entry on a tract on which settlement has been made subsequent to said April 26th, 1871, upon satisfactory proof of good faith in such subsequent settlement.

The second proviso relieves from certain restrictions of the law, those settlers actually residing upon their lands at the date of its passage.

Very respectfully,
WILLIS DRUMMOND,
Commissioner.

AN ACT for the relief of settlers on the Osage lands in the state of Kansas.

Enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That the Osage Indian trust and diminished reserve lands in the state of Kansas, excepting the 16th and 36th sections in each township, shall be subject to disposal, for cash only, to actual settlers, in quantities not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres, or one quarter-section to each, in compact form, in accordance with the general principles of the pre-emption laws, under the direction of the commissioner of the general land-office. Provided, That claimants shall file their declaratory statements as prescribed in other cases upon unoffered lands, and shall pay for the tracts, respectively, settled upon within one year from date of settlement, where the plat of survey is on file at the date of settlement, and within one year from the filing of the township plat in the district office where such plat is not on file at date of settlement.

Sec. 2. That any actual settler upon these lands who may have failed to pay for and enter the land settled upon by him under the act of July fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, shall have three months from the date of this act in which to file his declaratory statement, and shall be required to prove up his claim and pay for the land before the first day of January, eighteen hundred and seventy-three. And in case of failure of any party to comply with the provisions of this act, the land claimed by him or her shall be subject to the settlement and entry of any other qualified person: Provided, That the persons so settling themselves of the provisions of this section shall be required to pay, and there shall be collected from them, at the time of making payment for this land, interest on the total amount paid by them, respectively, at the rate of five per centum per annum, from the date at which they would have been required to make payment under the act of July fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, until the date of actual payment: Provided further, That the twelfth section of the act of July fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, is hereby so amended that the aggregate amount of the proceeds of sale received by the government under the act of July fifteenth, eighteen hundred and seventy, shall be the amount upon which the payment of interest shall be based.

Sec. 3. That the sale or transfer of his property by any settler upon these lands by any settler prior to the issue of the commissioner's instructions of April twenty-sixth, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, shall not operate to preclude the right of entry, under the provisions of this act, upon another tract settled upon subsequent to such sale or transfer: Provided, That satisfactory proof of good faith in such subsequent settlement be furnished upon such subsequent settlement: Provided further, That the restrictions of the pre-emption laws relating to previous enjoyment of the land by any settler prior to the passage of this act, shall not apply to the provisions of this act, upon another tract settled upon subsequent to such sale or transfer: Provided, That satisfactory proof of good faith in such subsequent settlement be furnished upon such subsequent settlement: Provided further, That the restrictions of the pre-emption laws relating to previous enjoyment of the land by any settler 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